

WATER IS LIFE

Soil & Water Stewardship Week

April 27 – May 4, 2008



The Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District encouraged everyone to think about their personal responsibilities to be good stewards of our natural resources, including water, during Soil & Water Stewardship Week, celebrated from April 27 to May 4, 2008. The theme for the 2008 celebration was "Water is Life".

The Douglas SWCD distributes Soil & Water Stewardship materials to all Douglas County Churches. This year close to 6000 pieces of Stewardship materials were distributed through the county churches.

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.

What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and our environmental health.

For information about Stewardship Week and conservation, contact the Douglas SWCD staff at 320-763-3191, Ext. 3 or visit our website at: DouglasSWCD.com. You can visit www.nacdnet.org to learn more about NACD and Stewardship Week.

2008 – 1st Junior Envirothon

By Audrey Kleespies

The first Area II Junior Envirothon was held at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008. There was an outstanding turnout for the 1st year, with 24 teams competing from Fergus Falls, Hillcrest Academy, Lake Park Audubon, St. Mary's near Breckenridge and Ashby Schools. Students ranged in age from 6th to 8th Grades. The Douglas SWCD along with 11 other SWCDs helped to organize this event.

This event was modeled after the Sr. Envirothon (9th-12th Grades), which has been held annually since 1994. Students attended five learning stations and were tested on the following: Soils, Wetlands, Wildlife, Forestry and the current issue, "Impact of Recreation on Natural Resources".

Fergus Falls Public Schools took the winners seat for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. They were very excited and have already made plans to attend in 2009. Special thanks to our sponsors, Area II SWCDs and MASWCD.